Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

ag84Ai
Cop 4

LONGER LIFE for POLES and POSTS

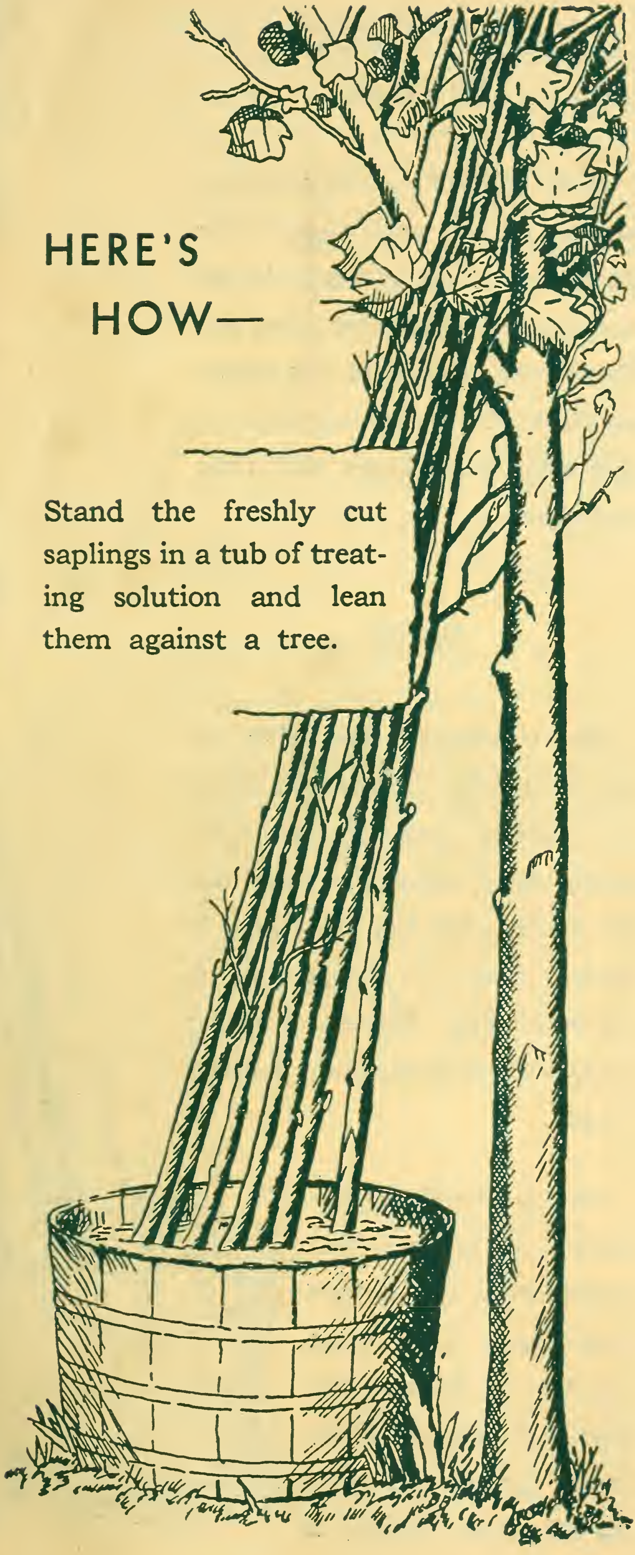
LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
★ JAN 21 1946 ★
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

AIS—36—1946

HERE'S HOW—

Stand the freshly cut saplings in a tub of treating solution and lean them against a tree.

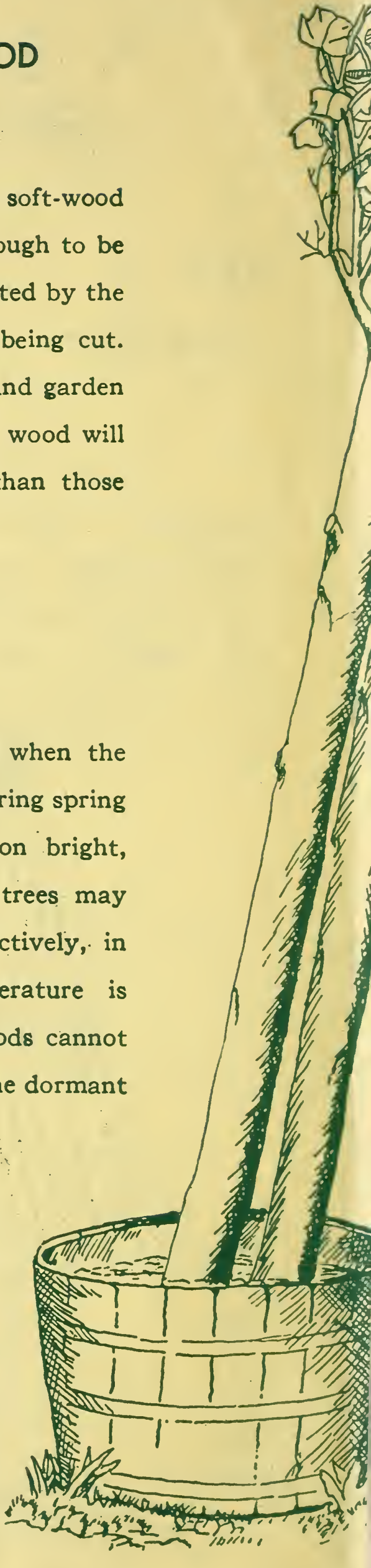


KINDS OF WOOD TO TREAT

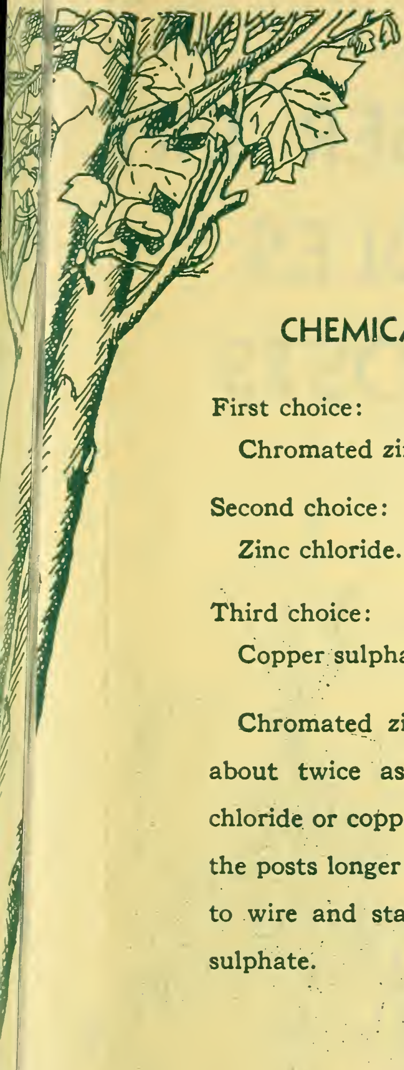
Many kinds of hard- or soft-wood saplings or trees small enough to be handled easily can be treated by the sap-stream method after being cut. Fence posts, bean poles, and garden stakes made from treated wood will last many years longer than those untreated.

WHEN

The treatment is best when the sap flows most, that is, during spring and summer, especially on bright, sunny days. Evergreen trees may be treated, but less effectively, in winter when the temperature is above freezing. Hardwoods cannot be treated effectively in the dormant season.



Best results will be obtained if saplings and small trees are treated immediately after being cut from the stump. The lower branches may be removed for convenience in handling, but leaving a



few upper branches attached will help to hasten the treating process.

CHEMICALS TO USE

First choice:
Chromated zinc chloride.

Second choice:
Zinc chloride.

Third choice:
Copper sulphate (bluestone).

Chromated zinc chloride, though about twice as expensive as zinc chloride or copper sulphate, protects the posts longer and is less corrosive to wire and staples than is copper sulphate.

AMOUNT TO USE

One pound of the chemical dissolved in ½ gallon of water will treat 1 cubic foot of wood, or one sapling that measures about 4 inches at the base and is about 30 feet tall.

Copper sulphate is so corrosive it must not be used in metal tubs or troughs, and none of the chemicals should be stored in metal containers.

All these chemicals are poisonous and care should be used in handling and storing them. They should also be kept out of reach of children, pets, and livestock. Those who are unfamiliar with such chemicals should see their county agent.

HOW

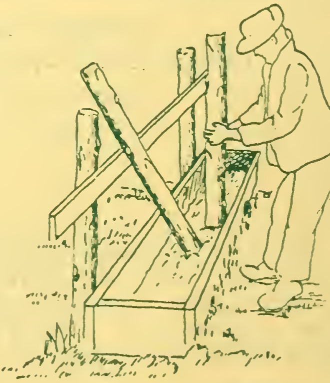
Stand the freshly cut saplings in a wooden tub or trough containing the required amount of chemical and lean the tops against a tree, building, or support of any kind.

Allow the saplings to remain in the tub or trough about 6 hours, or until they have taken up the required amount of chemical.

Evergreens treated in winter will require about a day to take up the necessary amount of solution.

OTHER METHODS

A less effective, but practical, method of treating green fence posts is to cut them to the desired length and stand them in a trough. The end to be placed in the ground should be submerged in the chemical. If posts are not treated immediately after being cut, or if pitch oozes out of the end of pine posts, remove about 1 inch of wood from the end of the posts just before they are treated.



16—46701-1

Other methods by which farmers can use the sap stream for applying chemicals to increase the natural durability of poles and posts are described in Chemical Impregnation of Trees and Poles for Wood Preservation, United States Department of Agriculture Circular No. 717. Though none of the methods or chemicals is perfect, treatment will make the poles more resistant to insects and decay at little added expense and labor.

Seasoned posts that have had the bark removed may be treated with a 5-percent solution of pentachlorophenol. This method requires a tank large enough to permit the timber to be submerged. At least 24 hours is needed for effective treatment. Posts must be dry at the time they are treated.

Other methods of treating wood may be found in the following publications: Farmers' Bulletin, No. 744, The Preservative Treatment of Farm Timbers; and Forest Service mimeographs, No. R1445, Treating Wood With Pentachlorophenol Solutions by the Cold-Soaking Method, and, No. R149, Methods of Applying Wood Preservatives.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Extension Service and
Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine

For more detailed information on the chemical treatment of poles and posts, see your county agricultural agent, consult your State agricultural college, or write to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—46701-1